

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 9-17. A detailed listing of the claims is presented, below.

1. (Original.) A composite comprising a metallic substrate, a substantially amorphous and substantially non-porous aluminophosphate film and a component therebetween, said component comprising a phosphate group in bonded interaction with an oxide of a metal component of said substrate.

2. (Original.) The composite of Claim 1 wherein said aluminophosphate film comprises and aluminum content selected from less than stoichiometric, greater than stoichiometric and stoichiometric, said content relative on a molar basis to phosphorous.

3. (Original.) In the composite of Claim 1 further comprising nanoparticles selected from carbon and a metal compound.

4. (Original.) The composite of Claim 1 wherein said substrate is a steel alloy and said oxide is selected from an iron oxide and a chromium oxide.

5. (Original.) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said film has a thickness dimension of about 0.05 micron to about 10 microns.

6. (Original.) The composition of Claim 5 wherein said film has a thickness dimension from about 0.1 micron to about 1.0 microns.

7. (Original.) The composition of Claim 5 further including an organic component on said film.

8. (Original.) The composition of Claim 5 wherein said film is opaque.

9.-17. (Canceled.)

18.-21. (Previously Canceled.)

22. (Original.) A composite comprising a metallic substrate and a substantially amorphous, substantially non-porous aluminophosphate film on said substrate, said composite having a surface energy of about 32 mJ/m².